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Wildlife Corridors
Read this week's Naturally Yours article to learn how we can protect nature on pages 2 and 3.

End of the Line
Read the final installment of the series by Janet Trull on pages 4 and 5.

Not-so-silent night
See photos from the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade and Christmas Shindig on pages 7 and 8.

Nearly 50 participants joined the 10th annual Jolly Jog at the Haliburton Museum on Nov. 26. This year's theme was holiday hats. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

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Naturally Yours

Beyond Islands of Green - Wildlife Corridors

RICK WHITTEKER
Special to *County Life*

The Whip-poor-will is nocturnal and rests quietly in forest cover during the day. /Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

Finding ways to help our local wildlife to survive and thrive during times of climate change and development pressure is tricky business. Wildlife habitat needs variety from large tracks of intact forest to a mix of habitat types to simply needing a rotting log with surrounding leaf litter.

A viable wildlife corridor, protection of species at risk and climate change mitigation are the three main goals of the Highlands Corridor. A project of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT), resting on the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, the Highlands Corridor encompasses 100,000 hectares with about 60,000 hectares being unceded Crown Land and the remaining 40,000 hectares comprising private land, municipal land and HHLT properties. This area encompasses a diversity of habitats including lakes, forests, wetlands, and rocky barrens.

The HHLT started the Partners in Conservation program, collaborating with landowners committed to landscape conservation with properties that strategically bridge gaps between fragmented Crown land. HHLT assists landowners in developing management plans with objectives of enhancing environmental protection and wildlife habitat.

The Partners in Conservation program has allowed the HHLT to emphasize to private landowners the importance of understanding how their property fits into the broader landscape. Islands of good habitat often cannot service the full seasonal needs of wildlife. Connectivity between natural landscapes provides an important ecological function, allowing animals to meet all their habitat needs within a suitable arrangement of space, including suitable hibernation and breeding sites while minimizing exposure to predators and human hazards.

Wildlife corridors are very important as animals need to move for a variety of reasons. As the season changes, movement to more suitable habitat may be necessary. For example, Blanding's Turtles use wetland complexes as movement corridors, however, female turtles can travel up to two kilometers into surrounding upland forest areas to find appropriate nesting sites.

Species at Risk in Ontario lists the status of the Blanding's Turtle as threatened. Threats to this population include habitat loss or fragmentation, motor vehicle collisions, egg predation from racoons and foxes and illegal collection for the pet trade. Blanding's Turtles are also late breeders, not entering breeding age until they are 14-20 years old. Adult mortality is very detrimental to their population as the odds of even reaching breeding age is low. Awareness of this threatened species habitat needs can help property owners adjacent to wetlands to support populations of the Blanding's Turtles.

Similarly, some forest salamanders spend the summer and winter in forests but in the spring, they breed

see page 3

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Foodland *

Kinmount Pharmacy *

Minden Valumart *

Peavey Industries *

Rexall *

Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *

Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Naturally Yours

from page 2

and lay their eggs in ponds, marshes, or temporary pools that may not be available on the landowner's property. Larvae mature in an aquatic environment, emerge as adults, and then move back to the forest to find suitable habitat under the leaf litter, rocks, and logs.

Larger mammals like moose and deer also move seasonally. They may find good spring and summer browsing habitat in one area but must move to a different location to meet their winter needs. For example, White-tailed Deer will look for conifer thickets in the winter, gaining a thermal benefit from congregating under the canopy of dense, snow-covered trees like Eastern Hemlock.

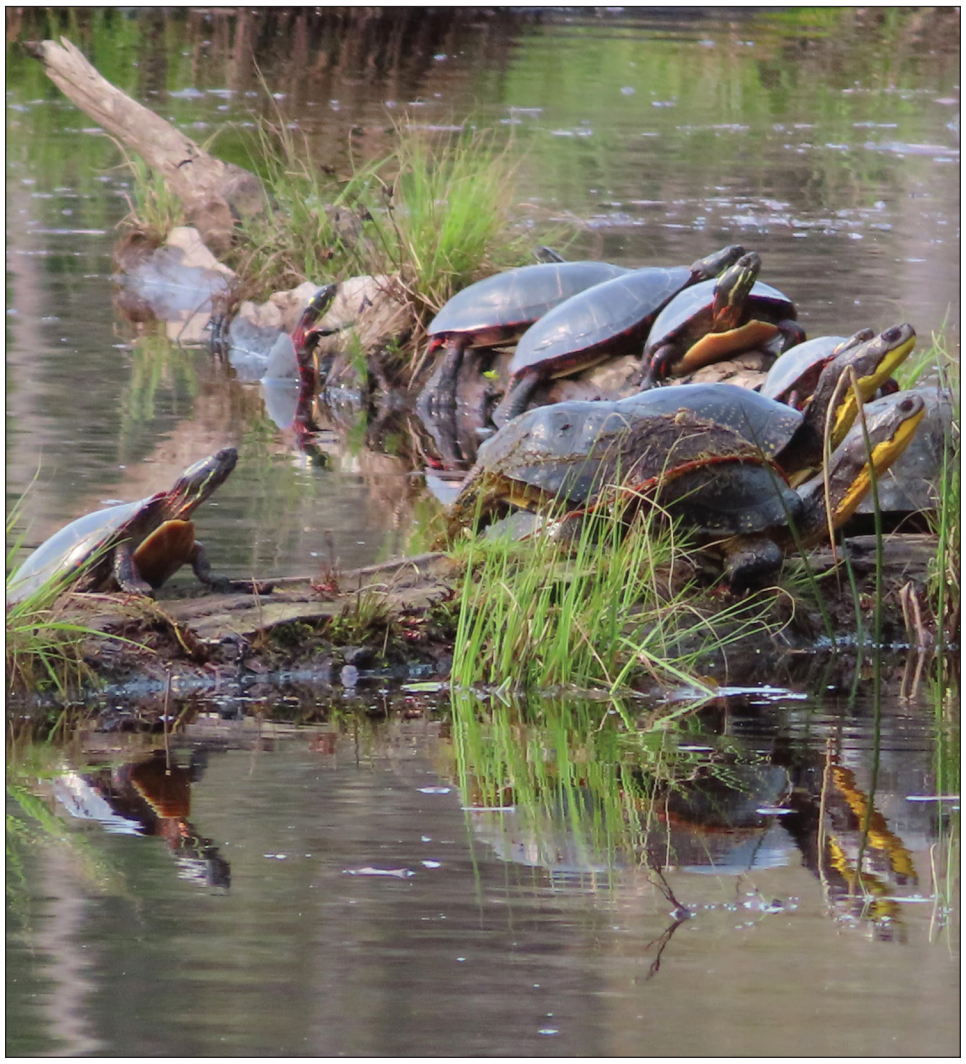
Called deer yards, they often have less snow cover, giving deer an advantage over winter predators. Deep snow inhibits the deer's best predator defense-speed. However, over browsing of these yarding areas is common, so proximity to deciduous browse is also important.

Also needing a variety of habitats to survive is the Whip-poor-will. This nocturnal bird rests motionless, wonderfully camouflaged while resting during the day in the recesses of a forest. At night they hunt for moths and other insects in open areas so if you see, after dark, a mid sized bird flying erratically in open meadows and rocky barrens, it is likely a Whip-poor-will.

You will likely hear them as they are twilight and beyond calling champions! Sounding like its name, the Whip-poor-will's call can be insistent from dusk to dawn! Like most nocturnal creatures, the Whip-poor-will has a specialized reflective membrane in their eyes called tapetum lucidum that improves their vision in low-light conditions. Interestingly, their eyes reflect a red glow if caught in the beam of a flashlight.

Further to the importance of landscape connectivity, the fledglings and the immature of many species must disperse from their place of birth to establish territories of their own. For populations to grow, offspring must be able to move to suitable habitats to ensure genetic diversity. Wildlife corridors and connected natural areas will help facilitate this movement without the dangers of road crossings and other human hazards.

In this era of climate change and development pressures, connectivity between natural areas will be vital, giving wildlife a chance to move and adapt to the stressors of change. Private landowners have a large role to play in maintaining the natural habitat necessary to support wildlife diversity in Haliburton County and beyond.



Blanding's Turtles are easy to identify with their distinctive yellow throat and "helmet" shaped shell. /Photo by Paul Heaven

Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2023

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

Option 2: Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.

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Drop off for the 4C's in Haliburton is Dec 8th and other location Dec 15th

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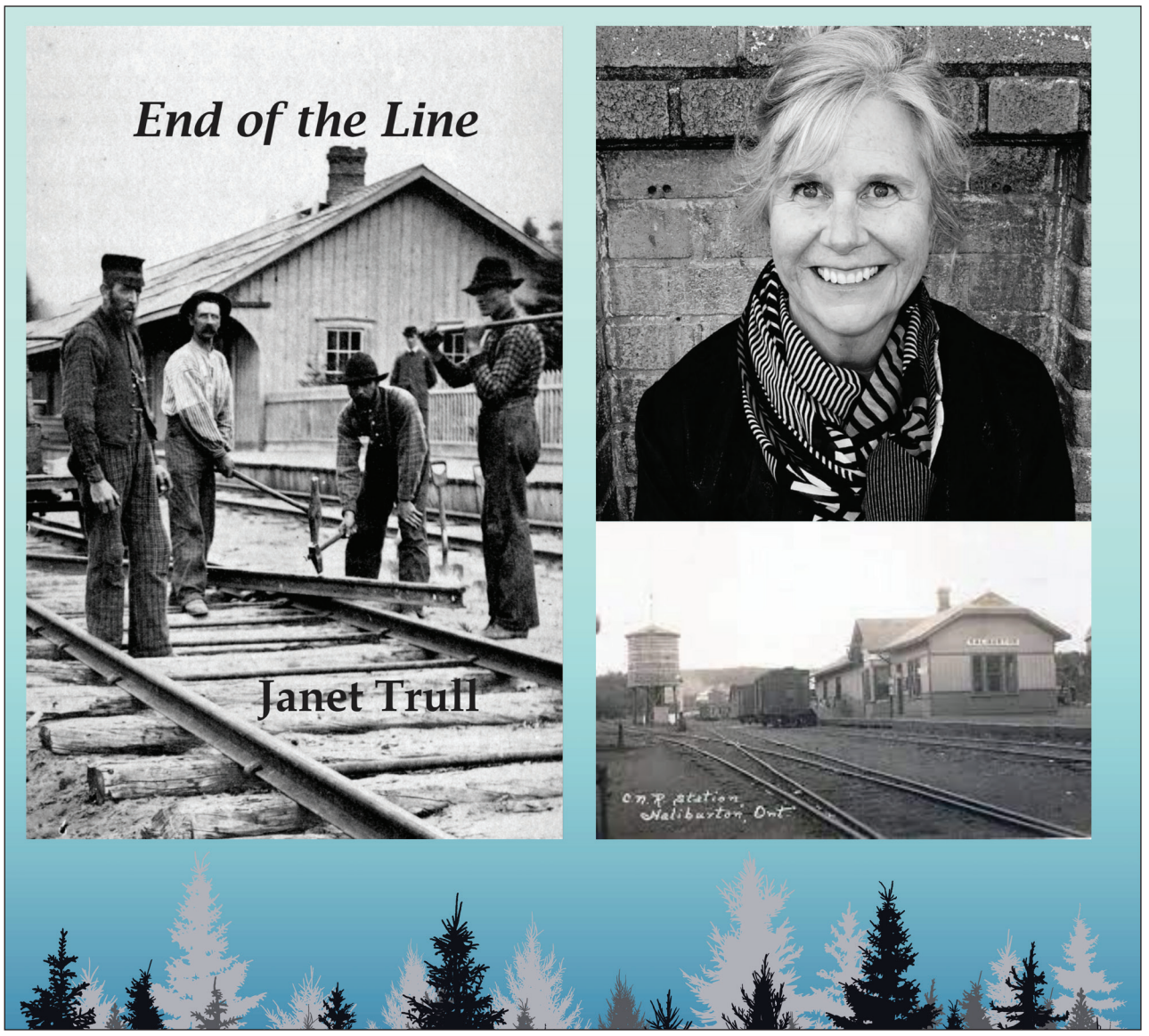
From historical fact to historical fiction

JANET TRULL
Special to County Life



End of the Line ~ Part 5

What is it about Haliburton that makes history come alive? It is easy imagine yourself as an early settler in this forest-covered county of hidden lakes and highland trails. Thunderstorms are wilder. Snow is deeper. And time is a little different here. Stories are passed down at kitchen tables, hunt camps and coffee shops. They may not be entirely accurate, but they contain a different kind of truth. The kind that celebrates perseverance through hard times.

Local authors have much to share about our past, including the village's namesake. Thomas Chandler Haliburton was a popular and prolific writer from the 1820s to the 1860s. He is best remembered for his Sam Slick stories, with clever sayings we still use today. "Quick as a wink. Facts are stranger than fiction. It's raining cats and dogs. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." T.C. Haliburton juggled a number of careers; author, judge, politician and speculator. The village was named in recognition of his chairmanship of the Canadian Land and Emigration Company from 1861 to 1865, a business venture to promote the sale of land in the backwoods of central Ontario. Dysart et al.

Fragments of a Dream by the late Leopolda Dobrzensky, captures the struggles and successes of early settlers. The book begins, "The planned settlement of Dysart was part of a bold but unrealistic dream to turn the timber lands of the Ottawa-Huron territory into prosperous agricultural country. The dream died on the rocky hills of the Laurentian shield only a few years after the first acres were cleared. But the community

see page 5

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from page 4

survived against all odds." It was a time, like today, when people were escaping war, poverty and persecution in their home countries. The idea of free land was very enticing. The reality, of course, was much different.

Dream of Excellence by Nila Reynolds, was written in 1976 to preserve local and regional history, in particular the development of arts and crafts in the highlands. Even though the book was written long before land acknowledgements were considered, Reynolds credits the "resident tribes of Algonkians, Mississaugas and Ojibwas" for being the first artisans and craftspeople of the area. Their use of natural resources to create clothing, baskets, bowls and canoes incorporated beauty and practicality. The book documents pioneer crafts like spinning, weaving, embroidery, quilting and cabinet making.

Haliburton history buffs should also check out Kim Emmerson's book, *Alexander Niven: The Biography of an Early Haliburton County Surveyor*. A meticulous researcher, Kim Emmerson used primary sources like Niven's diaries, and documents from the national archives and Ontario museums.

My novel, *End of the Line*, is historical fiction with no such dedication to accuracy. It was inspired by local storytellers, the majesty of highland landscapes and my own imagination. I enjoyed creating characters who paddled on Kashagawigamog, worked in sawmills and lumber camps, and faced their hardships with resilience. Like every frontier village, there were liars and cheats and criminals who challenged those intent on community building. When everyone is a newcomer, it's hard to tell the good guys from the bad. If you recognize the Haliburton I have imagined, it will be thanks to everyone who has shared their myths and memories with me over the years. I also want to acknowledge the local organizations that value history and keep it alive by maintaining museums, art galleries, pioneer buildings, historical plaques, and cultural centres. Ghosts of the past have much to teach the living at the end of the Victoria rail line.

End of the Line, can be purchased locally at Master's Book Store and Rails End Gallery. It is also available online through Amazon and Indigo in paperback, Kobo and Kindle editions.

> ***"They may not be entirely accurate, but they contain a different kind of truth. The kind that celebrates perseverance through hard times."***
>
> — Janet Trull

Wild

River, roiling, devouring rocks,
the white fangs of its fury, spraying
Air, as I listen to it roar,
my mind stripped bare of thoughts,
my senses, revived, an urge to be closer
to the surge of water, seizes me,
the wildness of River, luring me to
clamber down towards its edge,
my feet leading me down the steep
incline, thick with trees, their roots roping their way along the ground,
showing me the way, as I wedge
between the trunks of pines, gripping a
boulder's back, for balance,
the moss, soft as fur, as my fingers linger, my feet, pulling me away, forging a
path through this thatch of forest,
its Air drenched with River Breath,
panting below, patches of blue Sky,
quilting the canopy of pines,
droplets of Sun, splashing the
ground, the River's current growing
louder, rushing in my ears,
as my feet cross the border between
forest and rock, the cratered terrain
sprawling towards the River's edge,
its mist spraying my face, as I edge
closer towards the water, my feet navigating the dents and fissures in the rock,
sprigs sprouting from the cracks, a
sapling swaying between two rocks,
bending to the force of the River,
its current threatening to drown it, as I
peer into the mass of white water,
the mist, seeping through my skin,
deeper, into the rest of me, feeling the
sound of River surge through my limbs,
as I stand still as the rock beneath my
feet, this moonscape that's been here,
longer than the forest and River, that
seethes, its fangs, carving the rock, eroding over time.
I nestle into a dent in the rock, close
to the River's edge, tongues of green
water licking my boots,
mesmerized by the churning of its
flow, the strength of its current, swallowing rocks,
as billows of mist rise in the Air, the
River, roiling, this time of year, unleashing its fury, before it quiets and rests,
its wildness, invigorating me, yet lulling me into stillness, at the same time,
every cell in my body, feeling the
surge, the urge to draw closer to the current, without being swept away,
like the stick I throw in, watching the
River, gulp it whole,
as I sit on the rock, not worrying
about the time or the climb back up the incline,
the rush of the River, quieting my
Breath, that breathes, with the ease of
water sliding over stone,
wondering whether the sapling,
springing from the fissure between two rocks,
will grow old enough to tower over
the River and not be devoured by its flow,
its spindly branches , flailing in the
Wind, like a hymn to the wild,
my spirit, soaring, like a child's,
above the roar of River, though Air
kissed by mist,
towards the blue of a boundless Sky,
closing my eyes, so I feel it fly.

Sylvie Kalenda

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Editorial

Keeping the winter blues at bay

THE CLOCKS have gone back.

There's been a change in our body rhythms and schedules. We have less sunlight in the evening and we are approaching the darkest time of year.

We're trying to keep ourselves healthy to stave off colds and flus, but finding it hard to resist sugar and comfort foods.

For many families, financial stress is compounded as they approach the holidays. Some people are just feeling a little gloomier or having trouble concentrating; some are seriously impacted by Seasonal Affective Disorder.

What can we do to break the winter blues? There is no magic solution, but prioritizing a few small things in our day can sometimes make a surprising difference.

The first is to open the curtains first thing in the morning and let whatever light exists inside. Another is to try to get outside if you have the flexibility during the daylight hours, like spending 20 minutes of your lunch hour going for a walk.

Moving your body even for a short period of time can reduce stress and increase serotonin. Try to pack in the sunshine during the weekends, even if you're just working outside or running errands, and read up on the benefits of Vitamin D.

Sleep hygiene is extremely important in the winter months – this includes going to bed and waking up at the same time, not oversleeping, and avoiding heavy exercise and screen time before bed.

If you have young children at home, it can be harder to establish your own bedtime routine, but winding yourself down by reading, chatting, meditating, or listening to music can signal to your brain that it's time to rest.

As with many things, mindset is key. Finding ways to accept and embrace winter can conserve and repurpose the energy that's normally used in fighting it.

It sometimes takes more effort, but you can still enjoy many of the same things during colder months, and seek out activities that can only happen when there is snow on the ground.

It is OK to seek extra support if you are feeling overwhelmed by your circumstances or emotions. If you're having persistent dark thoughts, have significant sleep disruption, or are using drugs or alcohol to cope, reach out to your family doctor or therapist. If you need someone to talk to, you can contact Point in Time at 705-457-5345 or email info@pointintime.ca.

Submitted by Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Top 10 other benefits of snow suits

SNOW SUITS ARE a uniquely Canadian piece of attire. They do well in keeping us warm and dry when temperatures plummet. The are practical when the snow gets deep too. But few of us have ever considered the other benefits they bestow upon Canadians in winter. Here are my top 10.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Reduces the number of the plumber's cracks you see until spring.
2. Can technically be paired with a tie for suit and tie events.
3. Not seeing them is a far more reliable indicator of spring than groundhog shadows.
4. Cuts down on dressing time if you are late for work.
5. Great way to keep the heat in after chili night.
6. Wear a larger size and you can smuggle the kids into a movie.
7. Greatest thing ever if you enjoy the sound of a good long unzippering.
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9. Put a pillow in the back and you can sit down anywhere.
10. Lowers the risk of walking out of the house with clothes on backwards.

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Though shore winks closer by
The moon will treat her fine
And carry her bloodline
From past her, through to sky

She's old now with all gathered storms
Yet still not weary since
Herself she can convince
It's soul which life informs
She'll fill her toughened sails
With wind and new details

Though shore winks closer by
The moon will treat her fine
And carry her bloodline
From past her, through to sky

By Deborah J Reed

Hosts Maple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm) keep the crowd entertained during the 10th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig at the Legion in Haliburton.

Dancing the night away

The 10th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig took place Friday, Nov. 24 at the Haliburton Legion, in support of the Fuel for Warmth campaign. Highlanders flocked to the Legion where they were treated to music, dancing, raffles and holiday cheers, all in support of the Fuel for Warmth charity. The Adverse Conditions provided the soundtrack for the evening, keeping people moving on the dance floor and those at home watching the live streamed event. Hosts Maple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm) kept the crowd entertained throughout the evening. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

The Adverse Conditions provided the soundtrack at the 10th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig.

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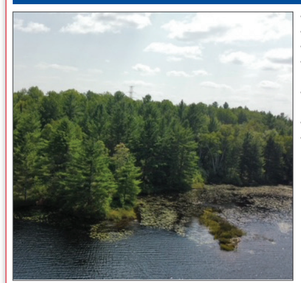

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- Rough 4x4 road to lot

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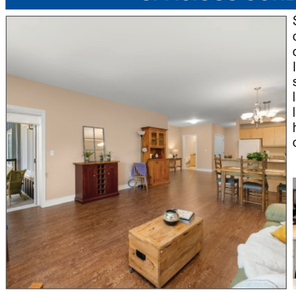
SPACIOUS CONDO $509,000



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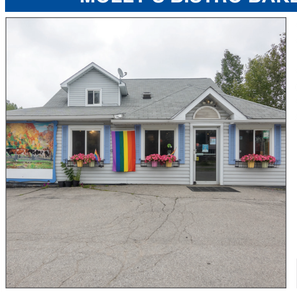

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Braden and Morgan Roberts won the prize for best sweater before the took off on their Jolly Jog with their pup, Darla. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Runners get their stretches in before the race starts.

The Judson family dressed up to participate in the annual event.

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Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

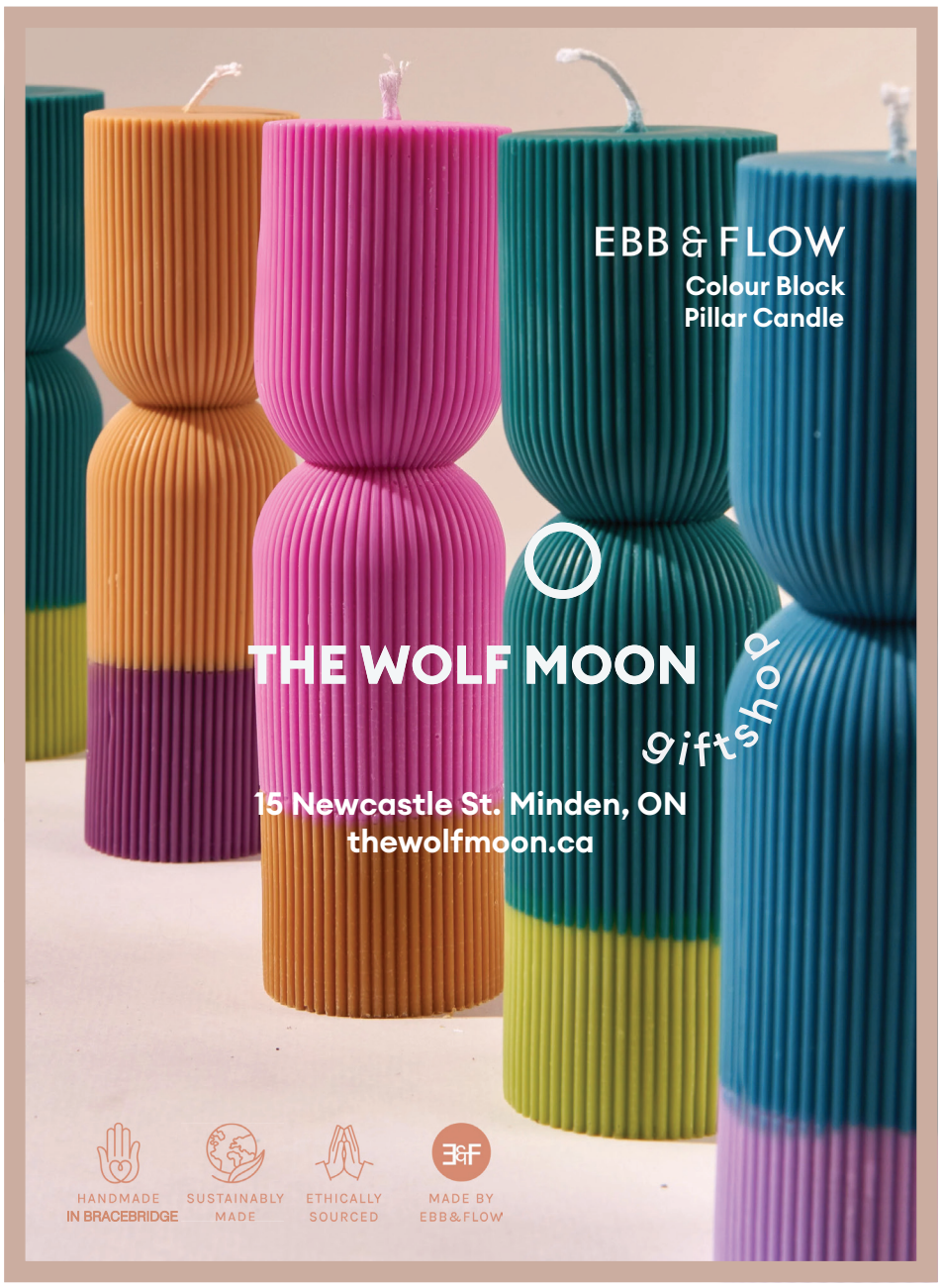
Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Dec. 7 - Open 2 to 6 p.m.
Dec. 8 - Senior's 55+ lunch noon - Wings/Jam 2 to 8 p.m.
Dec. 9 - 2 to 6 p.m. Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Dec. 10 - L.A. Breakfast 9 to11 a.m. Closed after breakfast
Dec. 11-12 - Closed
Dec. 12 - General Meeting 7 p.m.
Dec. 13 – Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.

Tree of Warmth AT Branch 624 is now accepting donations for the Cardiff and Wilberforce elementary school children. Homemade or store bought socks, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks would be appreciated for Grades JK to 8. Take your donations to the Wilberforce Legion, Wednesdays to Saturdays 2pm to 6pm or drop off at Agnews General store.

President's Levy – Dec. 30 3 to 6 p.m. Drop In- Refreshments



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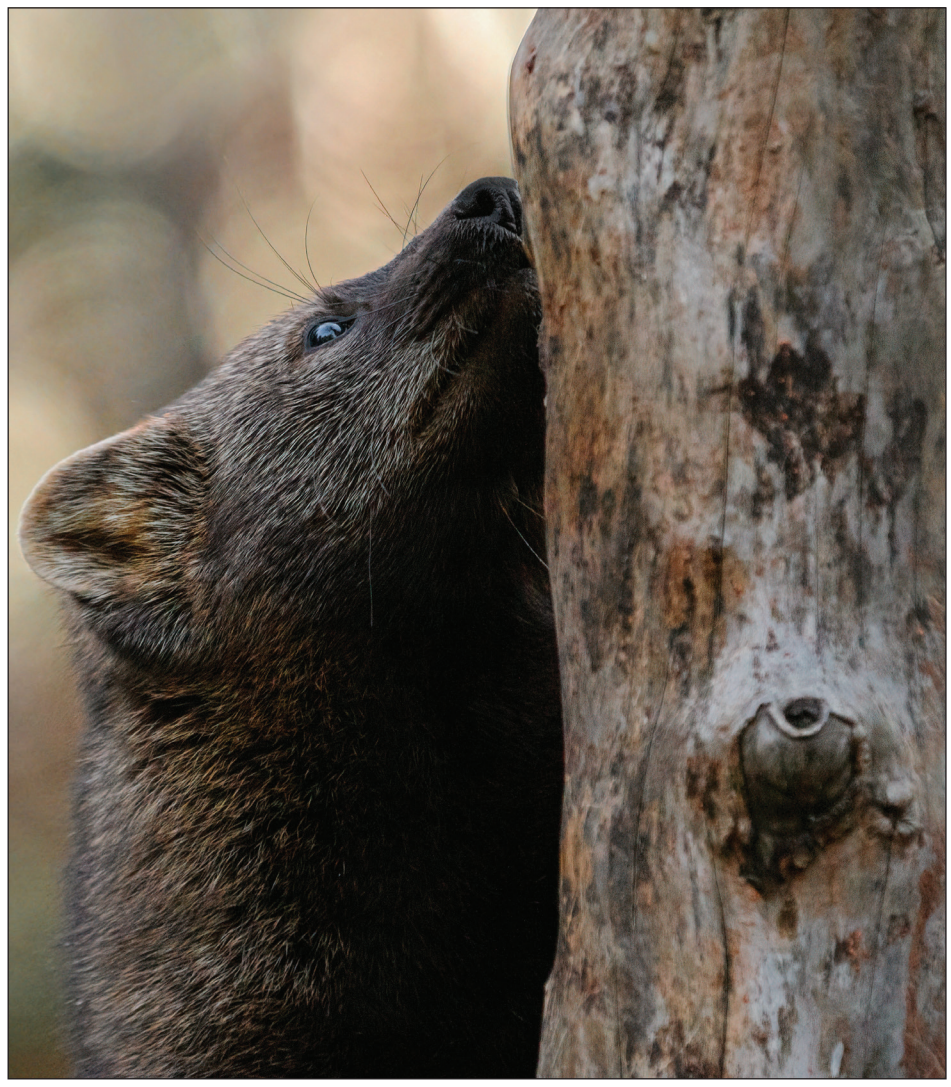
Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Two Pileated Woodpeckers. /Submitted by Shannon Feir



A Fisher climbing a tree at sunrise. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

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Home Game

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES VS PICKERING PANTHERS

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Friday, Dec. 29
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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Tickets for the 2024 Cash Calendar
When: Now until sold out
Where: Multiple Locations
The Haliburton and District Lions Club is now selling tickets for their 2024 Super Cash Calendar. Three draws happen the second Monday of every month from Jan. 8 to Oct. 14, 2024. Visit www.haliburtonlions.com.

Contract Bridge
When: Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon
Where: Minden United Church basement, 21 Newcastle Street
Our weekly contract bridge has resumed. All levels of skill welcomed.

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cribbage and Euchre
When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. With funding from the Government of Ontario. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for more information.

Ladies' Shopping Night
When: Dec. 7, 5 to 8 p.m.
Where: Various Haliburton Retailers
Join participating Haliburton businesses for this year's annual Ladies' Shopping Night! Enjoy in-store sales, free hot chocolate, and giveaways. Visit at least 5 stores for a chance to win 1 of 5 $100 gift cards to a downtown BIA business of your choice. Get your passport from any participating business.

Christmas Open House
When: Friday Dec. 8, 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost, 2314 Loop Rd, Wilberforce
Come and join us for good cheer, seasonal goodies and hot apple cider. Contact: Barb Schofield, 705-448-2598, wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Rotary Community Christmas and Skating Party
When: Dec. 8, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: A.J. La Rue Arena, and Haliburton Legion
The Haliburton Rotary Club invites you to bring the whole family for a free evening of festive fun! Skating, music, hot chocolate, pizza and treats. Bring your camera for a picture with Santa.

Friends of the HCPL Book Sale
When: Dec. 9 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Dysart Library Branch, 78 Maple Ave, Haliburton
A variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Payment is by cash or cheque donation. All money raised by the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

Kinmount Community Christmas Market
When: Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Kinmount Community Centre, 2 Dickson Street
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Email Resumes to hamzaakhalidd@gmail.com

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
AND MINDEN RECORDER
Vol. 99 No. 18 Wednesday, December 17, 1980 "The voice of the Highlands" 40 pages 25 cents

Board will reduce its teaching staff by total of five

Declining enrolment throughout the county school system, coupled with a board decision to reduce the number of grades at the Dorset school, will mean five fewer teaching jobs in Haliburton County next year.

At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education supported recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the Dorset school reduced by four grades, a move that will mean the loss of two teaching jobs. The committee also recommended a reduction of one teacher at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School, one at Archie Stouffer public school in Minden, and one at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for a total reduction of five teaching positions.

The move does not mean that five teachers will be fired, however. Voluntary retirements and resignations will make up some, if not all of the five positions that will be lost.

The cutbacks in teaching positions are part of an ongoing trend that is expected to continue over the next few years, until the number of students entering and leaving the school system reaches an approximate equilibrium. Declining enrolment is also likely to force further changes in the present school system as the board reduces the number of grades in outlying schools, or closes them completely.

For the moment, however, the change at Dorset is the only one the board will impliment for the 1981-82 school year.

The special projects committee, in its report to the board, recommended no changes at Wilberforce or Victoria Street schools. Gooderham school will continue to operate in its present Kindergarten to Grade 4 arrangement, at least until the end of the next school year, by which time the special projects committee will recommend whether the school should be closed or remain unchanged.

Cardiff school will also operate unchanged next year.

Staffing in all county schools is considered by the committee on an annual basis.

Cummins gets council seat left by Elliott

In a long, drawn-out process, Larry Cummins has finally made it to council.

This week, Cummins was appointed to Anson, Hindon and Minden council to fill a vacancy created when councillor-elect Dean Elliott was forced to resign because of a possible conflict of interest with his justice of the peace duties.

Cummins, a local businessman, first put his name before the public in the November 10 municipal elections. On election night when the votes were counted, he tied with Ed Pergolas for the last seat on council.

Two weeks later, when the recount was scheduled, Cummins lost the council seat by four votes. However, about the same time, Elliott was forced to resign and a vacancy was created at the council table. Although council was not legally bound to appoint the next closest candidate, it decided at its inaugural meeting, last Tuesday, to appoint Cummins to the position.

"It certainly was a long process; well I'm kind of glad the way things turned out," Cummins said in a telephone interview Monday.

Cummins said he felt council had made the right move by selecting the next closest candidate at the polls since it was so close to election time.

"It shows they're thinking of the people, not themselves," Cummins said.

In the next two years, Cummins said he would do his best to help run the municipality for the people and work for the betterment of the community.

Although Cummins said he did not have any specific projects he would like to see get underway immediately, he will be spending his first months on council learning

Cont'd. page 3

Murray Fearrey, right, was elected as Haliburton County warden on Monday night. Here, Malcolm McGillivray, 1980 warden, helps Fearrey on with the warden's robe.

Fearrey is new county warden, says 1981 will prove 'difficult'

Good forest management programs should be strived for in 1981 according to Murray Fearrey, new warden for Haliburton County.

At county council's inaugural meeting Monday night, Fearrey told the members of council that they should work towards establishing forest management programs, making the planning strategy a worthwhile document, and creating good working relationships with the county's unionized workers.

Another important issue to face the council will be dealing with problems facing the local OPP detachment. At a recent meeting of Dysart et al council, where Fearrey is reeve, the detachment sergeant spoke of staffing and distance problems faced by the local force. The sergeant was attending that meeting as local businessmen were concerned with the policing of the village.

During his speech Fearrey said the OPP's concerns should be investigated so the "whole county can have what it deserves".

In the year ahead, the county will be facing difficult economic times as high interest rates, declining lumber industry and construction effect the county, Fearrey told his councillors.

"1981 will prove to be a difficult year," he said.

He noted the county is facing another winter of high unemployment as well as having a "famous" low annual income.

Cont'd. page 3

New councillors assigned duties

Minden sets committee positions

Council representatives were appointed to many area committees at the inaugural meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council last Tuesday.

As part of the official ceremony, members of council were named to represent council on certain committees.

Newly-elected councillor Ed Pergolas was appointed to the Minden and District Horticultural Society. Also newly-elected reeve, Lloyd Walker, was named the Industrial development contact for 1981 and to the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP).

Serving with Walker on the OHRP committee will be deputy-reeve Doug Pritchard, councillor Lyle McKnight and municipal law enforcement officer, Dick Schell.

Walker and McKnight will also be acting as liaison with the Red Cross Society for the next year.

Enforcement officer Schell

Cont'd. page 3

Sir Sams had best opening weekend ever

White Christmas all but certain

If this week's weather is an indication of things to come, all those who dream of a white Christmas should get their wish. A total of up to 40 cm. of snow (16 inches) has fallen on the Highlands since last Monday, and more is expected later in the week. Snowdepths now range up to 55 cm. in northern sections of the county.

Highest temperature recorded over the Monday to Monday period was 1C. Tuesday, December 9. The lowest was a bone chilling - 30C Thursday, December 11, and it was equalled Monday, December 15.

All lakes inthe county are now frozen. Smaller lakes which froze several weeks ago now have up to five inches of ice. Larger lakes generally have thinner ice and lake travel is still considered hazardous.

The snow has been a boon to skiers and conditions for both cross country and downhill are

Snowmobile trails are not yet open.

A gradual warming trend is expected for later in the week, with more snow likely by Friday.

Future will depend on enrolment

Dorset school not closed at least for 1981-82 term

Dorset parents have won a partial victory in their fight to keep the public school in that community open. At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education approved recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the school reduced from a full nine grades to a Kindergarten to Grade 4 facility.

The decision means two of the school's four classrooms will be closed, and that two of its four teachers will no longer be needed. The teachers will be absorbed into the county public school system, but the net result will be two fewer teaching jobs.

The decision may not have entirely pleased Dorset parents, but it did stave off the closing of the school for at least another year. Its long term future will now depend on the community's growth, or lack of it.

In recommending the change, the committee, in a report to the board, noted that the compromise would allow younger children to be educated in the community while at the same time providing students in Grade 5 and beyond a chance for a broader educational experience.

Those students will be educated in Muskoka, with the majority of them expected to go to Irwin Memorial School in Dwight, 11 miles from Dorset.

The committee also noted that keeping the school open would enable the board and the community to assess the growth or decline of the student population on a yearly basis to determine if the school should continue to function.

Dorset parents and local politicians have been opposed to the possible closure of the school on the grounds that it would hurt the community's attractiveness to potential newcomers. More recently, they have expressed a feeling that the community could grow in the immediate future because of the provincial government's commitment to increase research into the acid rain phenomenon.

In recommending a reduction in the number of grades at the school, instead of complete closure, the committee acknowledged area parents' and politicians' fears that if the school were closed, it would never be reopened.

Besides providing increased educational opportunities for senior students, the change to a 'K to 4' school will save the board money, the committee report notes. It says caretaking, heating and electrical costs will be cut when two of the school's four classrooms are taken out of service, and that expenditures for teachers salaries will be reduced by more than 50 percent. In addition, the committee said, the board may be able to rent out the two unused classrooms to further offset operating costs.

The net saving is expected to be greater than busing costs and fees to the Muskoka Board brought about by the transfer of students to Irwin Memorial school.

Before the board voted on the committee's recommendations, members of the Dorset parents group reminded trustees that the original decision to examine the future of the school had been prompted by a projected drop in enrolment that has not yet come about, and that the parents feel will not materialize, especially if the acid rain laboratory is expanded.

Parents also expressed concern about Irwin Memorial school's ability to handle an influx of more than 20 senior students from Dorset.

A third concern centred on the problem of French. Muskoka schools begin French instruction in Kindergarten, whereas the Haliburton County Board provide French in Grade 5 and beyond. Feeling that Dorset students would be at a distinct disadvantage when they moved on to Irwin Memorial, the parents asked board members if French could be taught from Kindergarten onward at the Dorset school, using one of the two remaining teachers.

Director of Education J. Douglas Hodgson indicated that the request could not be considered, however, because the education act requires boards to provide equal educational opportunity to all its students. The board can begin French instruction in any grade it chooses under the regulations, he said, but it must offer it in all schools at that grade. Thus an exception could not be made at the Dorset school, even if the board wanted to do so.

Trustee Earl Cooper felt

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Echo will not publish in Christmas week

Because Christmas falls in mid week this year and in order that our staff members may enjoy the holidays, the Haliburton County Echo will publish early Christmas week. The Echo will be published on Monday, December 22, 1980. The deadline for display and classified advertising as well as for editorial submissions for that issue will be 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20.

There will be no Echo published the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our office will be closed from December 23 through January 1 inclusive.

We thank you for your cooperation on these altered deadlines, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Students at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School were warming up for Christmas holidays last week. Mrs. Carters grade seven class proudly displays their season's greetings.

Employment situation 'bleak' but new program could help

by Sue Cooper

Although there may be a few more people looking for work this year, the unemployment rate is about average for this time of year, according to the manpower Outreach office in Haliburton village.

Even though the winter months are generally a slow time in the Highlands, Manager Jayne Heppleston said the number of unemployed might be slightly higher this season.

"Things are looking a little bleak at the moment, but you know, the next day they could turn around and we could have orders for five casuals," Heppleston said in a telephone interview Monday.

Although all unemployment insurance applications are filtered through the local office, there is no way of determining the number of people on claims in the

"It's about average for this time of year - maybe a little bit tighter this year because there hasn't bee as much construction," she said.

However, there is a possibility that 28 more jobs will be made available in the county this winter as the federal government's Canadian Community Development Program gets underway, Heppleston said.

This program will help out through the winter months and replaces the former Canada Works program, which was not available last year.

Although the program will not effect the largest unemployment area the county has, it will provide work for women, youth, native Canadians and the handicapped, Heppleston said.

"It's mainly for women, youth and physically handicapped, so it's not even going to reach a target that we're hefty in," Heppleston added.

The project will, however, add a welcome relief during

Cont'd. page 3

Santa to make special visit to Haliburton this Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to town and not just on Christmas Eve. This year, at the special request of the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Haliburton Legion Branch 129, Santa has agreed to take a couple of hours off from his preparations and visit with boys and girls in Haliburton village.

Santa will arrive at the Legion hall at 12 noon and will greet the children to be sure he's made note of their wishes for his visit Wednesday night before Christmas. And he's also said he'll be handing out presents to all the youngsters who turn up to meet him at the Legion.

At 1 p.m. there'll be more entertainment for the children, as well as a movie to top off the afternoon's activities.

Don't miss Santa's special visit to Haliburton.

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The real estate market will always ebb and flow, but interest in the Highlands never falters.

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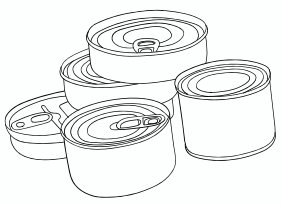
BRG's Advent Calendar Food Drive

***Week 4:* December 6th - December 12th**



Dec 6 - Chocolates/Sweets
Dec. 7 - Granola Bars
Dec. 8 - Canned Chickpeas
Dec. 9 - Canned Pineapple
Dec. 10 - Jar of Mixed Nuts
Dec. 11 - Canned Black Beans
Dec. 12 - Canned Carrots

*For every item donated, your name will be entered into a draw to win a Holiday Prize!
*Drop off your donations to our office at 191 Highland St. Suite 102

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